

1 **Transcript of Second Engineer of the Ehime Maru**  
2 **Honolulu, HI.**  
3 **February 12, 2001**  
4 **Transcribed by Ted White**  
5 **June 26, 2001**  
6

7 Mr. Roth-Roffy: Good evening, we are here to conduct an interview of the second  
8 engineer of the Fishing Vessel. The date is February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2001. The time is 2058. We are  
9 investigators with the National Transportation Safety Board, and we are conducting a  
10 safety investigation of the accident. We will start by asking you to give us a detailed  
11 description of your activities from leaving port up to the collision.  
12

13 Interpreter: An hour before departure he was in the engine room. He started both  
14 electrical generators because they would be using the bow thruster. About 1110 he started  
15 both main engines. The pilot was on board about 1200 and he engaged the clutch. Even  
16 though the bridge has control, the 1<sup>st</sup> engineer stands by the throttles to make sure that if  
17 something goes wrong he can take manual control of the engines. At the same time, other  
18 engineers are ensuring the levels in the tanks and the water are even. About 1220 he went  
19 to the outer decks to rig the lights they use for fishing. This takes about 40 minutes to  
20 finish. He finished with the lighting and went back to the engine room. That's when he  
21 noticed that the clocks had already been turned back and they showed about 10 minutes  
22 before 12. He stayed in the control room to make sure the machinery status was OK. He  
23 did a rounds in the engine room, checking the temperatures and meters. After he finished  
24 his rounds he went back into the control room. At 1220 he heard that lunch was ready so  
25 he headed up to the mess decks. About 1230 he went up to stateroom. And he was in his  
26 stateroom. He then went to the washroom. He was in the washroom talking with ?? and  
27 that is when he first jolt. Soon after he felt the second. Almost like the vessel was forced  
28 backwards. Then the lights went out. So he looked out and saw oil everywhere. The  
29 second jolt was more a continuous jerking action. There was a third impact and there was  
30 a lot of oil coming to the surface. That's when he saw the submarine. It wasn't fully out  
31 of the water.  
32

33 Mr. Woody: If he could draw us a sketch.  
34

35 Interpreter: That's when he saw the oil, and the submarine was really close. He just  
36 knows it was really close. He's not sure what he saw but it was right there! By that time  
37 he noticed all the oil in the water and saw the waves coming onto the ship. It was more  
38 than normal. He knew the ship was sinking because the waves were crashing up onto the  
39 main deck. At the same time the fish hold area was completely flooding. He came around  
40 the port side. He went forward. He came around the fish hold area to the starboard side.  
41 He was coming back aft and he noticed quite a bit of people. The water was already up to  
42 the deck and he knew it was too dangerous so he decided to go back forward and go up  
43 the stairwell to the 01 deck. By the time he got to the 01 level the waves were already  
44 crashing onto the 01 level. The aft was sinking more than the bow. That's when he  
45 noticed that everyone was coming up to the muster area. By the time people were at the  
46 muster station the waves were crashing in that area also. Maybe 1-2 minutes from the

1 time he went up, it came up to the muster area. The water, within 1-2 minutes, was going  
2 up quickly. He decided to go up to the 02 level. He was trying to go to the 02 level and  
3 hoping the life rafts would come up and he would jump towards them. It was too late –  
4 the water was coming from the aft too much. As he reached the mid ships section of the  
5 02 level the boat just went down. He was hanging onto the life rail and didn't have time  
6 to get off. The water started sucking him down. It was tough getting up to the surface. It  
7 was quite a bit to swim to the surface. He came to the surface and saw a couple of people  
8 around him. The life rafts were around too. A couple were closer together than other  
9 ones. He started to swim to the life rafts. He reached a life raft. He was the only one in  
10 his raft, and there were other empty ones around him. He was close enough to submarine  
11 to hear them ask if he could speak English and he said no. They released the ladder on the  
12 house. About an hour and a half they waited, and a boat came.

13

14 TAPE GAP.

15

16 Interpreter: 1800 PS. Metric horsepower. 6 cylinder The newer engines are a lot small  
17 than the older ones. There are 2 generators YANMAR 600 hp generators – 400 KW.

18

19 TAPE GAP

20

21 Interpreter: He doesn't know, he was topside.

22

23 Mr. Roth-Roffy: Would it normally have been secured upon departure?

24

25 TAPE GAP

26

27 Interpreter: About 420-430 RPM. 450 is max.

28

29 Mr. Roth-Roffy: Does he know the reduction gear ratio.

30

31 Interpreter: He doesn't know the ratio. But could calculate it. At 430 RPM the shaft is  
32 turning about 215 – so it's a 2:1 reduction.

33

34 Mr. Roth-Roffy: Can you confirm that it is a variable pitch propeller.

35

36 Interpreter: Yes, variable pitch

37

38 Mr. Woody: Who is the manufacturer of the controllable pitch propeller?

39

40 Interpreter: Yokohama kumme (sp?)

41

42 Mr. Woody: When you came to the surface and there were people around, were they in  
43 the water or in the rafts.

44

45 Interpreter: He just knows people were around the majority in life rafts but doesn't  
46 know if any were in water.

1  
2 Mr. Woody: Specifications give us the diameter of the engine/piston, what is the stroke  
3 of the engine. Is it a two cycle or four cycle engine  
4  
5 Interpreter: A four cycle engine.  
6  
7 Mr. Woody: I have some questions we routinely ask. What is your age?  
8  
9 Interpreter: 50  
10  
11 Mr. Woody: What is your height and weight  
12  
13 Interpreter: 176 cm, 78 kilos  
14  
15 Mr. Woody: Could you tell us something about you education.  
16  
17 Interpreter: Graduated junior high school.  
18  
19 Mr. Woody: What kind of license  
20  
21 Interpreter: 5<sup>th</sup> tier (6<sup>th</sup> is lowest)  
22  
23 Mr. Woody: How long have you had a license?  
24  
25 Interpreter: He got it at 22.  
26  
27 Mr. Woody: When did you start in the maritime field and has it been continuous  
28 employment  
29  
30 Interpreter: He finished junior high at 15, and ever since has been on boats.  
31  
32 Mr. Woody: What kind of vessels was it then  
33  
34 Interpreter: Fishing vessels  
35  
36 Mr. Woody: Has he been on any other kind of vessels?  
37  
38 Interpreter: No, just fishing.  
39  
40 Mr. Woody: How long has he been on the Ehime Maru?  
41  
42 Interpreter: 23 years.  
43  
44 Mr. Woody: How many of the Ehime Maru's has he served in?  
45  
46 Interpreter: From the second one. He was in 2, 3, and 4.

1 Mr. Woody: So he has served in the 4<sup>th</sup> one since it was new?  
2  
3 Interpreter: Yes  
4  
5 Mr. Woody: What kind of watch system did you stand on board ship?  
6  
7 Interpreter: Six watch standers. 4 hours each  
8  
9 Mr. Woody: How many officers stand watch?  
10  
11 Interpreter: Four officers, two crewmembers Officers stand 4 hour watches, crew  
12 stand 3 hour watches.  
13  
14 Mr. Woody: Do you have any duties off-watch?  
15  
16 Interpreter: He stands watches during day. Then he does what needs to be done other  
17 that.  
18  
19 Mr. Woody: When vessel is fishing, do you have extra work to do?  
20  
21 Interpreter: No set time during fishing. It depends on the cycle of fishing. You might  
22 have to go outside and help with the fishing if not on watch.  
23  
24 Mr. Woody: What duties did you have in port?  
25  
26 Interpreter: In port, just fixing the air conditioning machine. They worked until 2300  
27 on the day they arrived on that.  
28  
29 Mr. Woody: Did he have any duties after that?  
30  
31 Interpreter: He did a six hour watch in port.  
32  
33 Mr. Woody: How much sleep did you get before getting underway?  
34  
35 Interpreter: He finished watch at 0400, and then got up at 0700. Before the watch, he  
36 had 5 hours of sleep.  
37  
38 Mr. Woody: How would you characterize your health?  
39  
40 Interpreter: Pretty good shape.  
41  
42 Mr. Woody: Do you take medication?  
43  
44 Interpreter: High blood pressure medication  
45  
46 Mr. Woody: Does it control your pressure?

1 Interpreter: Yes  
2  
3 Mr. Woody: I notice you wear glasses. That is all the questions I have for you now.  
4  
5 Mr. White: This is Ted White. Did you have life jacket?  
6  
7 Interpreter: No. He thought about putting one on but it was too late.  
8  
9 Mr. White: When he was in raft and saw submarine, did it stay with him the whole  
10 time?  
11  
12 Interpreter: Yes, they stayed close.  
13  
14 Mr. White: That's all I have  
15  
16 Mr. Roth-Roffy: That concludes the interview with the second engineer at 2157.